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UAA Mat-Su Home of the Mat-Su college Arctic Dragons

Mat-Su Monitor

OCTOBER 2019 VOLUME 43 NUMBER 1

Why I Don't Celebrate Halloween

By Ricque Antolin

Halloween is another day for people to get together, dress up, and celebrate. I am held accountable for doing so. However, over time my mind-set changed about Halloween. For other people the candy,

See CELEBRATE *page 10*

2019-20 Student Government Officers: Vice President Shane O'Quinn and President Angeli Kristovich.

Celebrate Indigenous People's Day October 14

Alaska Native Cultures Club Mat-Su college

with the Alaskan Native Culture Club

Join the Mat-Su Monitor!

By ItzMeBrookieCookie & Louanne Corpus

To all Mat-Su college students! The Mat-Su Monitor is currently seeking out young, hip students due to the overabundance of old, non-hip faculty members who still think MySpace isn't dead and Facebook isn't bedridden.

Do you have too much time on your hands? Is your mother begging you to leave

See MONITOR *page 8*

Getting to know the new president

By Miles Gibson

With a month down in the new school year, the students are starting to get the rhythm of the new semester. Settling into the new schedules, winding down from the summer and preparing for the fall are all normal parts of the new year. For incoming Student Government President Kristovich, this includes facing all the issues of a normal student, as well as getting the administration off the ground. I was lucky enough to meet up with and talk about her new administration's goals, why Student Government is important to her, and the difficulties of facing all students.

We met at the Student Government office on Friday September 20th, on a quiet rainy afternoon, and got some of the easy get-to-know-you questions out of the way. The typical small talk, Where are you from? What are you studying? What's your favorite color? President Kristovich is from Anchorage, originally, but moved out to the Big Lake area to help with her family's farm about three years ago. She is going to school for business administration, and really seemed to enjoy the Mat-Su campus.

I asked, why did you want to be the student body president? "I wanted to become president, because I wanted to make the students more community oriented amongst each other, just bring

See NEW PRESIDENT *page 3*

Upcoming Events

October 8: Journey Event: Clothesline Project, 10 AM - 3 PM. FSM 208.

October 10: Journey Event: Public Health Nurse, 11 AM. Atrium.

October 14: Indigenous Peoples Day. 5-7 PM in the cafeteria.

October 14: Title IX Training for Students, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM. SNOD 103.

October 22: Journey Event: Bringing in the Bystander, 12 PM. FSM 204.

October 28: Spring 2019 schedule available to view on UAOnline.

November 1: Withdrawal deadline.

November 1: College dance.

November 6: Heyi niłtu Event by the Alaska Native Cultures Club. Glenn Massay Theater.

Club meeting times

Student Government Council: Wednesdays, 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM in OLB 214.

Alaska Native Cultures Club: First and third Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 PM in FSM 201.

Dance Club: TBD.

Game Club: TBD.

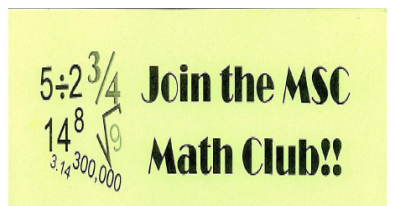
Math Club: Monday, 2:30-3:30 PM; Friday, 12:00-1:00 PM. SNOD 124.

Mat-Su Monitor: Tuesday, 12-12:50 in OLB 214; Wednesday, 3:15 PM - 4:00 PM in OLB 214

Spanish Club: 12:00-12:45 PM in FSM 105 on October 17 and November 17.

Stephen King Club: TBD.

Check https://matsu.alaska.edu/calendar/ for updates.


5÷2 3/4
14 8 √9
3.14 300,000
Join the MSC Math Club!!
Students at any math level or ability are welcome to join. We concentrate on contributing back to the MS community, however, this is also a great place to get know your fellow students better, form study groups or competition teams, and show involvement and leadership on your resume!!
Questions?
Contact: lgrabarek@alaska.edu or rgraham10@alaska.edu

Math Cram Jam
The Math Department invites students to study with faculty.
Saturday , Oct 19th Snodgrass Hall
Rm 117-119
10:30 - 2:00

MSC SGC

Get involved!
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
meetings every Wednesday from 12:00 - 12:50 in OLB 214 (upstairs in the library)

Welcome stoods!

By Angeli Kristovich

Dragons,

On behalf of the Student Government council here at Mat-Su, welcome! I hope you all had an exciting summer and are happy to be back! My name is Angeli Kristovich and I am currently your Student Government President. I wanted to welcome all the new and returning students and let you guys know a few things you can get involved with while you are attending college. As we get back into the swing of things, we all know that at times our homework feels like it's just too much -- but fear not! There are many outlets and resources on campus to help you find your sanity.

Whether hiking is your thing, or maybe you want to join a club, we've got you covered! As mentioned, if it is a walk in some fresh air you crave, you can go on a hike on the trails behind the Glenn Massay Theater. There is a trail map at the entrance of the path for you to get familiarized with before you get lost in the beauty of the many acres owned by the college! If its comradery you seek, join a club, create a club, go to a Journey Event, or run for an elected position as a Senator in Student

See WELCOME *page 3*

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Run

By E. Farris

It was a dark night in the forest. Moonlight forced its way through the canopy. The leaves on the forest floor crunched. Simon ran as fast as he could. The beast was on him. He sensed it. He felt its breath on his neck. Heard the pounding of its claws. He smelt its saliva dripping from its mouth. Its fangs screamed for his blood. It would devour him.

Simon saw a house ahead of him. He ran faster. He crashed through the door. He slammed his back against it. The beasts vanished.

Simon took a look around the house. The house was one room, the walls were painted white, candles lit the room and a couch faced the wall. The doors of the house were symmetrical. In the

See RUN *page 10*

Meet Gary Deadmond

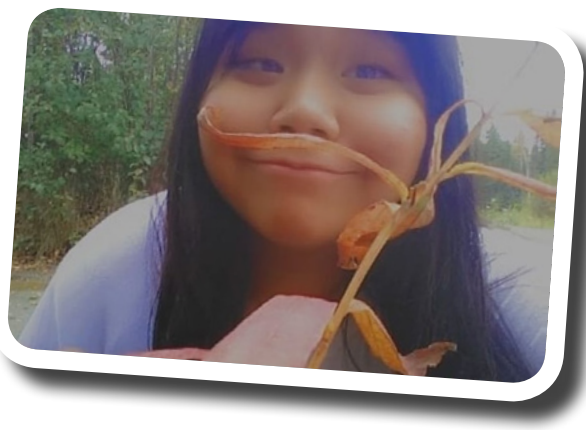
To start, I'm a total geek. LARP and gaming mixed with Disney, Wargaming, and some writing, the works. I just started college this semester and I plan on majoring in Computer Engineering with a minor in Creative Writing. I decided to join the Mat-Su Monitor as a tradition of sorts, since my sister was a featured writer for this paper before me. Hopefully I remain on the team until I graduate, and I sincerely hope you enjoy what I have in store for all of our readers. And if you see me around campus, say hi! I'll definitely say hi back at the very least.

Meet Michelle Sharpe

My name is Michelle Sharpe. I am an on again-off again member of the Mat-Su Monitor since 2012. I write primarily about film and television as well as literature. I am majoring in English and hope to one day get a job where I can combine my love of writing and pop culture. Some of my favorite things include: Star Wars, Barry, The IT Crowd, and the book Flowers for Algernon. My favorite musical is a toss-up between the off-Broadway production of The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Little Shop of Horrors.

When I am not watching television or reading, I am working, writing, or swimming. I am also the proud mother of a 5 year-old Shih Tzu named Loki.

I may be an English major, and I may watch indie films and foreign films, but I assure you, I am not pretentious. Want proof? Earth Girls are Easy, White Chicks, and Showgirls are all films I love unapologetically.



Meet Ricque Antolin

Hello, I'm Ricque! I enjoy writing, sunsets, and I'm not much for long walks on the beach. I have a dog named Jack, with whom I like to reenact the movie Titanic. Singing is my favorite past time -- not so much my dog's. I'm allergic to cats but still pet them when I get the chance. I don't talk much at first but once you get to know me I'm a chatterbox. So if you see me just say hello. I'm always interested in a conversation, whether it be about pop culture or the ingredients of 7 Up. I'm not all too familiar with the latter, but if you are, by all means inform me. Just give me a heads up.

How to Apply to the Peace Corps

By Michelle Sharpe

Earlier this year, I decided to take a step toward realizing my dream of serving abroad in the Peace Corps. I sent in an application. To my surprise, I got an interview. The next thing I knew I got an invitation to serve in Albania for two years, which I accepted.

Since then, I have gotten a lot of questions about the Peace Corps. I decided that I would help you all out and give you some tips on how to apply for a Peace Corps position.

Step One: The first step in any application process should be research. Research, research, and more research. I have been looking into the Peace Corps since high school. I saw that they prefer someone with a Bachelor's degree. I went to college and am graduating in the fall of 2019. I then researched living conditions, pay, crime, problems within the Peace Corps, hardships of volunteers, what the Peace Corps had to offer after service, as well as how the organization responded to crises abroad. I did not one day just decide to apply to the Peace Corps. This decision required a lot of background research and soul searching on my part. Do I want to be in a different country for two years without family? I decided yes. I wanted to go out, learn a new language and step outside of my comfort zone. So I decided to apply.

Step Two: You've decided to apply. Now the question is how to apply. You need to visit www.peacecorps.gov and read up on their application process. The website will tell you to speak to a recruiter before applying. I did, but I did not find it particularly helpful. I did most of my research online via youtube, reddit, and numerous blogs,

See **PEACE CORPS** *page 10*

By Angeli Kristovich

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The *Mat-Su Monitor* is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The *Monitor* aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The *Monitor* seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the *Monitor*'s weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the *Monitor* can be found at *https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor.*

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the *Monitor* contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the *Monitor* article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

What's up with Student Government

By Miles Gibson

A new school year, and a new Student Government administration. There is a lot going down this year and I am here to tell you about it.

The first meeting I attended was on September 4th and there seemed to be a lot going on. There was a new president, vice president, and treasurer. There was nothing new to report from Secretary McCrossin and Vice President O'Quinn. At this time there were no student senators, but that did not stop the administration from voting to allow the formation of the Spanish Club and that of Secretary McCrossin's appointment to be a representative for the Coalition of Student Representatives, as well as to appoint him as treasurer. The Vice President Shane O'Quinn was also appointed by incoming President Kristovich. Audrey Badger reported for the Student Media Board and let everyone know that the *Mat-Su Monitor* was on track this year to publish the same as last year.

The September 11th meeting was called to order by Vice President O'Quinn and seconded by President Kristovich. There were still some learning curves for the new administration over parliamentary procedures and who could bring motions and who could second them, luckily Faculty Advisor Ballain was on hand as always to answer any question that came up. There still were no senators at this time, but that did not stop the administration from voting for $5,000 to fund the *Mat-Su Monitor* for the school year, and to grant $1,000 to Dr. Luke Grabarack, a member of the faculty, for the math department's Cram Jam events that give students a chance to work on their math skills twice a semester. Both passed with all votes in favor. Jaime Carle was working on becoming a student senator and trying to get a deal at the Alaska Club for a discount for students. The treasury report noted that there had been a decrease of $240 for an unknown reason, but it was brought up that this was likely just an adjustment for change in enrollment numbers.

The meeting of the 18th had some new developments. Jaime Carle had the signatures and had attended the required number of meeting to become a senator and was voted in by the Student Government without opposition. Although her proposal for a discount from the Alaska Club was abandoned, it turned out that through further research that the MTA Sports Center already offered a discount to students. Additionally, we also get access to the Anchorage university campus gym with our Wolfcards. There was a proposal for the creation of the Stephen King Club, but that was decided to be shelved until a representative from the club could explain more. There was discussion of a Halloween themed dance, and how to better streamline the club creation process. The Spanish club had nothing new to report, but Alaskan Native Cultures Club said that there was an Indigenous Peoples' celebration event had planned for October 14th.

Well, that's all that's gone down during the first two months of school, I look forward to keeping you apprised of business as the school year moves forward. And if you're interested in attending Student Government meetings, know that they are held weekly upstairs in the library on Wednesdays 12-1pm.

Campus lost and found now housed at the library

Missing your ...

- **Keys?**
- **Phone?**
- **Jacket?**
- **Headphones?**
- **Flash drive?**
- **Other item?**

Just ask at the library desk -- your item might have been found!

New President *con't from page 1*

people together and to build on my leadership skills," Kristovich explained, "I really do think that Mat-Su is a really good school and better than UAA, because it's more personal. The teachers and the students are more real." She continued to explain that there was a closeness here at the Mat-Su College that you don't get a lot of other places.

"Student Government is important because they are an outlet for the wants and concerns of the students," Kristovich said. Some of last year's accomplishments include a second microwave in the cafeteria and the water bottle filling station, also located in the cafeteria. "Student Government is important to me mainly because I was trying to step out of my comfort zone, I was trying to do something new, something that made me uncomfortable and scared," Kristovich responded. A big part of college is new experiences and it was nice to see that Kristovich was really embracing that and pushing to get the most out of it.

When asked what advice she would give to someone thinking about Student Government, President Kristovich said, "Do it, it really does change your views and puts you in situations that you wouldn't normally be in. It causes you to think differently about everyone, the whole campus, and how your actions and what you vote on affects people. It's not just about yourself anymore." Last semester was her first time in Student Government and she spent a lot of time learning how the system works but is ambitious to finish up some of the lingering issues from last year, such as bringing the ratified constitution to a student body vote.

The impression I got from the new president is refreshing in politics, a person that genuinely wants to bring people together and give back to a place she loves. When most rhetoric these days focuses on division and exclusion, it was nice to hear a conversation about inclusion and community. The president said, "If you have questions or concerns, want to start a club, maybe want to be a senator, or just talk, come on down." I would encourage any and all students to come down to JKB 114 and get to know your Student Government.

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

Join a Mat-Su College Student Government Council Committee

Or join one of the student clubs.

Clubs are a great place to meet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax.

Alaska Native Culture Club	Game Club
Stephen King Book Club	Arroba Club
Math Club	Mat-Su Monitor

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don't see a club that interests you, can start one of your own. Student Government will fund you up to $300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the café.

Welcome *continued from page 1*

Government. There are also work-study positions available online. You can apply for work study jobs at www.careers.alaska.edu.

For those of you who are unsure of how to get involved and make connections, here is some advice that worked for me when I was a new student. What I found to be the easiest way to make this campus feel more like home is I did not allow myself to be too shy to talk with staff, faculty, and my peers. The more people you know, the more comfortable you will be. So, put yourself out there and make some new friends! This year my goal is to work towards a stronger student community and a stronger student government. It is our duty to speak up for and empower our campus to make our university a better place for us all, and that will take all of us to work together to make sure we are all doing our part to include the unincluded and take the extra minute to talk with someone new. Let this year be the best one yet!

Sincerely,

Student Body President, Angeli Kristovich

Mat-Su College Arctic Dragons

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR STUDENT NEWSPAPER!
Join the Mat-Su Monitor
Wednesdays 3:15 to 4PM
Tuesdays 12:00 to 12:50 PM
Library room 214

Soldier

By E. Farris

"Charge!" screamed the commander over the volley of attack magic. Sword pointed toward the enemy, he ran ahead. But the regiment cowered. They watched his sword arm fly from his body, his internal organs dropped from the hole where his right side of his abdomen, chest, and shoulder used to be as his lifeless body fell forward. The volley of magical explosions was deafening.

The soldier jolted awake. The caravan had reached its destination. He released the grasp of his spear and stretched his back.

"Sir, this is as far as we go. Good luck to you and thank you for your gold and your company."

"My pleasure traveling with you. Can I ask one favor?"

"Please do."

"When you return to the capital, can you give this to my granddaughter?" the elderly man held out a small wrapped parcel to the caravan member. Taking the parcel from the old man's hands the young man replied,

"Of course. I wish you all the luck."

The young man rushed away back to his duties. The soldier leaned on his spear as he rose. His bones ached and creaked.

"One last trip," he mumbled under his breath. The town where the caravan had stopped was small even for an outskirts town. Houses were rundown and the main street was filled with ruts and puddles. By contrast, the people were healthy and strong. One man carried a large boar over his shoulder, another carried barrels of water with ease, and a young boy walked with a large sword on his back. The soldier left the town with respectful jealousy.

He walked on without rest for three days until he came to the border. The elderly man rested his head on his spear and stared at the Great Plain. He looked down to assess himself. Upon returning his gaze to the Great Plain, his commanding officer stood in front of him. A large hole cut out his right upper chest and abdomen. His mouth overflowed blood and his eyes froze in a great terror.

"This is your fault," he gargled. The soldier whipped his head from his spear and pulled it at the ready. He blinked as he held his spear pointing at thin air. The soldier laughed at his hallucination, his body rigid and ready to strike. He eased the spear to rest and pressed onwards.

"No more rests," he told himself. Pushing through the edge of the Great Plain the soldier came to a blue which transitioned to green grass as far as the eye could see. A gust of wind shifted the grass and the soldier dropped to his knees and covered his ears. When the wind subsided he pressed forward. He came to a small river with purple grass growing on the banks. The soldier leaned down and started drinking. A gust of wind blew along the river and brushed his ears.

"It's you. The failure," accused a high pitched echoing voice. The soldier covered his ears. "What is a failure at doing here?""Shut up," cursed the man.

"No. A failure gets no such privilege. Not only a failure but also a thief, stealing water."

"Why don't you have a rest. I'll watch you while you sleep." the voices came relentlessly for three days to the weary soldier. He continued till the plains became barren and the earth cracked in desperate need of water. He could still smell smoke mixed with death from the war long past. Continuing he found what he came for, the undead that were his comrades, his brothers-in-arms, now rotted and falling apart shambled toward him. He cracked the skull of the first and severed the head of the second. Twenty more remained, some barely wielding their weapons, shambling towards him. He killed them one after another, their faces, when they were alive, flashed before him. The voices berated him louder,

"Traitor! Coward! Deserter! You should let them kill you. Die for your sins. Let them gnash and gnaw you alive. You killed them in life and now you kill them in death. Give yourself to them for atonement. Submit to death." With tears he could no longer hold back and regret consuming him, he split the last one in half and collapsed to the ground with relief. Either sadness or old age took him, but he died nonetheless with his battalion.

A Geek's Inventory

By Gary Deadmond

This is A Geek's Inventory. A Top 7 list, in no particular order (kinda) of various geeky and nerdy things.

For our first look inside A Geek's Inventory, I'll be giving you a list of YouTube creators that I think are appealing to a wide range of geeks. Some are educational while others will be more for entertainment and a good laugh. Let's check it out.

7 BitWit

BitWit is a tech channel focused mainly on PC building.

He does build videos, reviews of PC parts as well as some miscellaneous tech gadgets.

I watched him heavily when I was learning how to build my own PC. He is a great resource if you were planning on building your entry into the PC Thunder Cats or if you are already a part of the Thunder Cats and you wanted to look into some upgrades. Go check him out.

6 Adrian von Ziegler

Adrian von Ziegler is a fantasy music channel.

There is not much to talk about when it comes to Adrian von Ziegler. His music does the talking. He creates music that covers a couple different styles such as fantasy, pirate, electronic, and dark fantasy. Some really good stuff. Some of my favorites are At The Summertide Feast, Moonsong and Spheres. Go check him out.

5 Luetin09

In the grim darkness of the far future, there is only lore.

Luetin is a Channel focused on the lore of the universe of Warhammer 40k.

Warhammer 40k is a Sci-fi war strategy game that uses miniature models to conduct a battle against an opponent. There are countless armies and even more models within those armies. But the lore of Warhammer 40k is a whole other beast.

Even if you aren't interested in the tabletop game, the lore of Warhammer 40k is very interesting and Luetin is a good place to start. Go check him out.

4 Games Done Quick

Games Done Quick is a charity organization that has live stream events twice a year.

They gather a bunch of people who speed run video games and they hold a week long, non stop stream events where these speedrunners play and complete various video games as fast as they can. During the stream they ask for donations that go directly to the Prevent Cancer Foundation or Doctors Without Borders, depending on which event of the year they are doing. They consistently raise over two million dollars for these organizations.

The reason I put them in this list is because you can go check out their YouTube Channel to see past events. So go check them out on YouTube then follow them to catch their next event in January.

3 Game Maker's Toolkit

Game Maker's Toolkit is a channel all about video game design.

Mark Brown is the host of Game Maker's Toolkit. He has a vast library of video essays discussing topics such as "What Makes a Good AI", "What Makes a Good Detective Game" or "The Anatomy of Side Quests".

A few series to note here. First, in his "Boss Keys" videos, Mark Brown talks about the dungeon design in The Legend of Zelda series

See GEEKS page 9

Mat-Su Valley's Indigenous Side

Mini Series: The Beginning

By Rachelle Coutlee

Being new in the Matanuska-Susitna area, I have wondered whose tribal land I am now a part of. I am curious because I used to live in Southeast Alaska where I knew its history and how it has evolved over time. Before I began delving into the internet (i.e. Google) I knew asking a person would produce the most detailed answer. The thing was, I didn't know who to ask at first. It wasn't until I became part of the Alaska Native Cultures Club that I finally found people I could ask. Here is an answer I acquired: The Knik, Eklutna and Chickaloon Tribes are federally recognized by the government and their tribes encompass this area of land. However, I did ask Google and I found out that its much bigger than I originally thought. We live in the Dena'ina or Tenaina Region of Alaska. It is also known as the Athabascan Region. It includes Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak, Palmer, Wasilla, Big Lake, Willow, Talkeetna, etc… It covers a substantial area and showing you would be easier. Knowing all this just means that there is more than meets the eye to this region of Alaska. In my next article, I will look at the Knik Tribe and delve into the culture by looking at where they originally resided, their language, and what they look like today.

To be continued…

Website of the AK Map *http://www.alaskool.org/language/languagemap/index.html*

Pre-contact distribution of Athabascan and related languages. CC BY 2.0,

https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=147052

DRAGON APPROVED EVENT
Start your journey here!
JOURNEY
Mat-Su College
What?
Journey = Fun, free on-campus activities supporting your health and wellness!
When?
All semester.
Check matsu.alaska.edu/journey for details
Why?
College is tough! Journey activities help you maintain health, focus, and well-being.
What's in it for me?
Meet new people, earn extra credit, and win prizes. Have fun with Journey!
Check the Journey website weekly for full activity descriptions, updates, and new events. All Journey events are free. You'll want to sign upon the website for events requiring advance registration.
http://matsu.alaska.edu/journey/
Mat-Su College Journey activities and behavioral health care services for students are supported by a Healthy Impact Grant from the Mat-Su Health Foundation.

DIRECTOR'S WALK: Did you know Mat-Su College has a nature trail? Some students found out during a Journey event in which they joined Dr. Colberg, Mat-Su College Director, for a walk on the trails.

Photo by Brooke Corpus and MariLouanne Corpus

TRAVELER'S AID

Earn a Proactive Stamp:

- Attending a FAFSA Friday or UAA Scholarship Workshop
- Using the MSC Math or Writing Tutor services
- Joining in on a Math Cram Jam session
- Showing up to a library information session
- Meeting with a career counselor in Student Services
- Meeting with your Mat-Su College advisor

DON'T GO IT ALONE!

You're not alone on this journey! If you feel like you're losing your way, there are places to go to help you get back on track:

Counseling Services

Mat-Su College students may receive up to five **free counseling appointments** with an experienced behavioral health clinician. To make an appointment, call Mat-Su Health Services at 907-376-2411 and identify yourself as a Mat-Su College student. You may meet with the clinician on campus or at Mat-Su Health Services.

Campus Resources

All faculty and staff are available to assist you in achieving your educational goals. Just ask for help!

Mat-Su Valley Resources

Visit the United Way website for a complete listing of local organizations and agencies.

A STAR IS BORN

September was National Recovery Month, a time to increase awareness of substance abuse and celebrate those who recover. A Journey event hosted a viewing of the original (1937) *A Star is Born*, Academy Award-winning love story of Esther and Norman. Afterwards students discussed relationships, dreams, and alcohol. Hosted by Judy Gette and Kim Stephens.

Pick up a Journey Passport at Student Services, Campus Cache or the Library. You can also collect them at the Journey events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

Tuesday, October 8, 10 am - 3 pm, FSM 208

October is Domestic Violence Month. Drop by the art studio & take a few minutes to make a statement about respect and nonviolence on a shirt! Then, hang the shirt on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of domestic violence. Supplies, including t-shirts, provided. Hosted by Jeanine Milne of Alaska Family Services,

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Thursday, October 10, 11am-1pm, Atrium

Get information on reproductive and sexual health from Public Health Nurse Dawn Hicks.

TITLE IX FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING

Monday, October 14, 12:30, Snodgrass Hall 103

This training satisfies the annual Title IX training for students requirement. Presented by Bridget Coffou, UAA's Prevention Education Coordinator

BRINGING IN THE BYSTANDER

Tuesday, October 22, 12-1:30, FSM204

Learn the skills you need to act when you see behavior that puts others at risk for violence, victimization, or perpetuation. These skills include speaking out against rape myths and sexist language, supporting victims, and intervening in potentially violent situations.

More Journey events on the way!

Mat-Su Middle College School
Apply Now!
Spring 2020 Semester Applications Available Now
907.715.9250 or 907.761.3498
MSM@matsuk12.us
www.matsuk12.us/msm
MSMCS
MAT-SU MIDDLE COLLEGE SCHOOL
Mat-Su Middle College School (MSMCS) is a partnership between the Mat-Su Borough School District (MSBSD), the University of Alaska (UAA), and the Mat-Su College campus. This unique opportunity for high school Juniors and Seniors is located at the Mat-Su College campus.
DUAL CREDIT
Graduate High School with up to 60 College Credits
High School Diploma
College Credit
Individualized Learning
Tuition, Books & Fees Covered

Fall into FAFSA!

Get a head start and file your FAFSA early!

- **The 2020-21 FAFSA is available online October 1st**
- **Students will use 2018 tax information to complete the 2020-21 application**
- **Schedule an appointment with Financial Aid today! Call 907.745.9762 or stop by Student Services**

When you need a hand...

As the nights get longer and colder you should know that there are people on campus whose job is your safety.

The college's own Physical Plant (i.e., maintenance) staff can help you in many cases. They are able to open locked car doors, jumpstart dead batteries or escort you to your vehicle if you have safety concerns. You can get a hold of Physical Plant by calling them at 907-745-9789. There is a also a direct phone line located in the main FSM lobby.

And remember -- you have a part to play, too! Keep in mind the phrase "if you see something, say something." Report to Physical Plant any safety hazards, even if they're as seemingly harmless as icy spots.

Microsoft Office, for Free

By Art Corvelay

As a student affiliated with a UAA campus, you have free access to Microsoft's Office 365 website.

Office 365 offers browser-based versions of some the popular Office programs: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. These lack a few features found in their desktop counterparts, but make up for that by saving your files to "the cloud" and by allowing multiple users to simultaneously edit the same document.

Better still, Office 365 users have the option to install the full 2016 versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Simply sign into Office 365 and click the "Install Now" button.

You can access Office 365 by visiting https://portal.office.com and signing in with your UA username followed by @alaska.edu.

Students who want a free, no-strings-attached office suite that will be available long past their graduation should look at LibreOffice (https://www.libreoffice.org/).

Additional Help available in the Learning Center:

- Computer stations
- Textbooks, videos and other resources

HAVE SOME QUESTIONS? TRY ONE OF MAT-SU COLLEGE'S LEARNING SERVICES.

Elizabeth J Fallon Learning Center

OLB 121 — 745-9772

https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/learning-resource-center/index.cshtm

WRITING TUTORS
Mon.-Wed.: 9:00 - 5:00
Thursday: 9:00 - 2:00

MATH TUTORS
Monday: 8:30 - 5:00
Tuesday: 8:30 - 5:00
Wednesday: 8:30 - 4:00
Thursday: 8:30 - 6:00
Friday: 10:00 - 2:00

ASL TUTORS
Wednesdays: 4:00 - 6:00

JAPANESE TUTORS
Monday - Tuesday: 5:30 - 6:30 by appointment

Tutors available in JKB 107. Tutoring is reserved for students enrolled in Mat-Su College courses.

Online tutoring options

- **tutor.com/Live Home Work Help**: the Alaska State Library provides the Live Homework Help service to all Alaska residents. Free, online tutors are available from 12 PM to 2 AM to help in a multitude of subjects. Visit http://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework to get started.
- **Khan Academy**: Khan Academy has free explanatory videos on math, science, economics, history, and more. http://www.khanacademy.org/
- **Purdue OWL:** Purdue's Online Writing lab has sample papers and handy guides to APA and MLA citation styles. https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

5 Reasons to Visit your Career Development Office

Adelina Rodríguez, Career Development Advisor

Mat-Su College Career Development services is available for all current and prospective students, and alumni, regardless of where they find themselves in their education. Based on one's needs, we have services to help with your transition from college student to working professional. From identifying career goals, preparing job application documents, acquiring skills through an internship, learning how to network and develop your interviewing skills, we are here for you! Learn about the five reasons to schedule an appointment with your Career Development Advisor to make the most out of your education at Mat-Su College.

Deciding on a Career may come easy for some and for others it is an overwhelming decision to make. To help offer career direction and identify relevant occupations based on your strengths and interests, students can complete the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and Strong Interest Inventory. This will allow you to create a short-list of careers to explore, learn about the educational pathways and job outlook. With this information, you will feel confident about the decision you make.

Resume and Cover Letter are key documents for the hiring process and can determine whether to invite you for an interview. For a single position, employers will receive countless applications and will spend an average of 6 seconds reviewing your resume. Before hitting the submit button on your next application, have your Career Development Advisor review and provide you with feedback on your resume and cover letter.

Internships allow you to apply what you are learning in the classroom; in addition gain valuable experience and real-world knowledge, in the field you are studying. Some academic programs already have an internship component as part of their degree requirement. For those that do not, learn about the internship opportunities in your community and start attaining professional experience.

Networking is a chance to gain knowledge about your career field, including essential skills employers are seeking. In addition, by building professional relationships you can gain insight on job openings, which can lead to employment after graduation. Mat-Su College serves as the site for the Employment Expo, hosted by Mat-Su Job Center, every March. This job fair attracts over 100 employers in various fields, in the Mat-Su Valley and around the State. The Career Development office can help you prepare for this event and other networking events on campus.

Interviewing with an employer is an opportunity to share that you are the best candidate for the position by highlighting your skills and qualifications. You can schedule a mock interview with the Career Development office to help you prepare and reduce the anxiety that comes with it. You will gain insight on how to answer questions and feel self-assured when you walk into your interview.

To schedule your Career Development appointment contact Students Services at 907.745.9746. Learn more about all our services by visiting our website at matsu.alaska.edu.

U-Bridge: Your chance to meet with major-specific advisors

By Donald Horton

If you're a Mat-Su College student who wants to earn a four-year degree, chances are you'll get it by starting at the Mat-Su campus and finishing at the Anchorage campus. You'll probably meet more than once with the excellent advisors on this campus, but their area of expertise is really the courses here. If you're aiming for a Bachelor's degree you really should talk to somebody who specializes in just that degree program. That's easy to do – and you don't even need to drive to Anchorage.

Mat-Su College Student Service's U-Bridge program connects Mat-Su students to advisors from specific academic disciplines on the Anchorage campus (where most of your upper-division classes will be held). By signing up with the U-Bridge program, you'll be alerted to semesterly opportunities to meet with an advisor who knows your major inside and out. These meetings might be one-on-one or they might be part of a group information session. That choice is up to you.

This year the U-Bridge program will be bringing advisors from allied health, business, education (UAS and UAF advisors in this case), nursing, and social work.

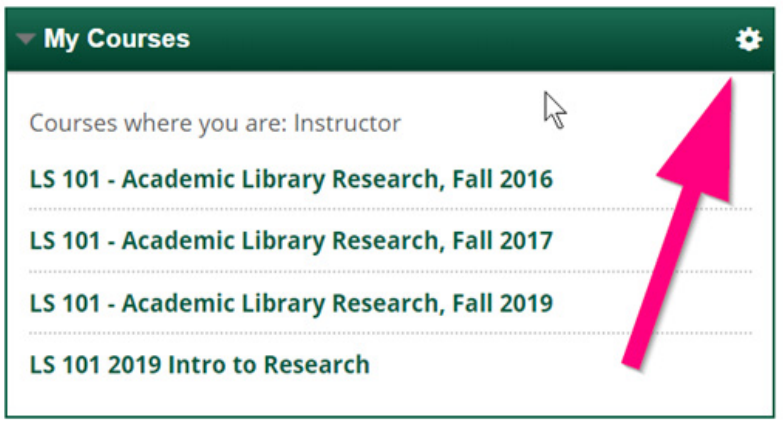
To get enrolled in the U-Bridge program, just contact student services at 907-745-9762. By enrolling in the program you'll be alerted prior to advisors' visits.

How to hide old classes in Blackboard

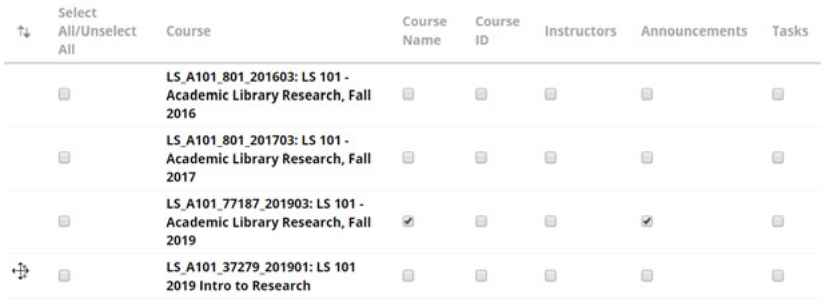
When you log in to Blackboard, you are greeted with a list of all the courses you ever took. This makes it hard – after a few semesters, anyway – to find the one course you're looking for.

Happily, you can easily modify your list of courses to hide old ones.

1. Log in to Blackboard.
2. Mouse over your "My Courses" area until a gear icon appears:


My Courses
Courses where you are: Instructor
LS 101 - Academic Library Research, Fall 2016
LS 101 - Academic Library Research, Fall 2017
LS 101 - Academic Library Research, Fall 2019
LS 101 2019 Intro to Research

3. In the personalization options, scroll down to the "Edit course list." Uncheck the box in the "Course name" column for any course you want to temporarily hide:


Select All/Unselect All
Course
Course Name
Course ID
Instructors
Announcements
Tasks
LS_A101_801_201603: LS 101 - Academic Library Research, Fall 2016
LS_A101_801_201703: LS 101 - Academic Library Research, Fall 2017
LS_A101_77187_201903: LS 101 - Academic Library Research, Fall 2019
LS_A101_37279_201901: LS 101 2019 Intro to Research

4. Click submit at the bottom of the page.

Now you should have a much tidier list of courses:

Spanish Club

Katrina Clayton

Spanish Club is kicking off at the Mat-Su College with Mrs. Claudia Jones, Spanish professor. She has never led a Spanish club before, but she is very excited to teach students the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries. She is right in thinking that Alaskans do not get as much interaction with people who speak Spanish, compared to people who live in the lower 48. She is hoping to change that, and give more people the chance to learn Spanish. This is why she has opened Spanish Club to anyone interested. You do not have to be enrolled in a Spanish class to come to Spanish Club. However, you do need to have taken a Spanish class previously.

She wants people to know that Spanish Club is fun. The students that come to Spanish Club interact with each other while speaking Spanish, as well as learn new vocabulary and sentence structure. Everyone from every skill level is welcome to join, but must be enrolled in Spanish 101 or have taken it previously. The club meets in FSM 105 on 10/3, 10/17, and 11/17. The meeting time is from 12:15-12:45pm. If you can make it you should. The club is a small group now, but Mrs. Jones is hoping more people will join. If you come once, you are not obligated to come again, but we would appreciate seeing you again.

There have been two meetings already and each time, Mrs. Jones has had the class watch a video in Spanish of herself reading a story. The class follows along with a paper copy and then take turns reading it themselves. This encourages students to learn pronunciation and new vocabulary. Afterwards, students pair off and do some exercises that came along with the reading. This could include translating a list of words, answering basic questions about the story or conversing with your partner about something relevant to the story. If students need help with a particular word, they can ask for help, or they can use Google Translate, although working with your partner is ideal. So if you are interested in learning Spanish and you have the time, then there is no reason why you shouldn't come to Spanish Club!

Arroba Sp@nish Club
by Claudia Jones

The main goal of this club is to provide a fun opportunity for students to practice the Spanish language, as well as the cultures of Spanish speaking countries around the world.

All UAA students
Dates: September 5,19
October 3,17
November 14 (2019)
Location: FSM 105
Times: 12:15 -12:45pm
Criteria of Membership:

Alaska Native Cultures Club
Mat-Su College

We meet every Wednesday 2:30 - 3:30 in **FSM 201** . *Visit the* STUDENT CLUB CALENDER on the Mat-Su website: https://matsu.alaska.edu or e-mail us at MatSuANCC@gmail.com

Monitor

MEETING TIMES
Tuesdays
12:00-12:50
&
Wednesdays
3:15-4:15
OLB 214
(upstairs in the Library)

Looking For:
- Photographers
- Writers
- Reporters
- Marketing Reps
- Cartoonists
- Artists

Now taking submissions: Next deadline for entries: October 21

Coming soon:

Stephen King Book Club

&

Game Club

MONITOR *continued from page 1*

the house and to do something with your life? Join us today where some of us have specific reasons for being here, while others are just bored and have nothing else to do with their lives. Join us now because we have too many open spots and not enough students to fill our empty void!

Any jobs are accepted as long as they are these jobs:

- Article writers: Be creative. Write fiction or nonfiction. You can write holiday stories or write articles on clubs, journey events, mat-su news and more.
- Comic artists: Any artists out there? Feel free to submit drawings or write comics and have them published to the newspaper and or instagram!
- Instagram influencers: Did you attend a journey event? Tag @matsu_monitor in your photo or dm us photos to post.
- Photographers: Take pictures and edit them the way you'd like.

Attend meetings!

Meeting dates are on Tuesdays 12-12:50 pm and Wednesdays 3:15-4:15 pm inside the library, upstairs, in room 214.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask Micah @ mwmuer@alaska.edu or dm me, BrookieCookie on instagram @matsu_monitor.

Sincerely,

ItzMeBrookieCookie

& Louanne Corpus

matsu_monitor

Follow: matsu_monitor on **Instagram** if you're hip, and for the unhip (and for those who simply wanna laugh at the unhip), join us at Mat-Su Monitor on **Facebook!**

The Golden Age of Horror is Now

By Michelle Sharpe

When you hear the word "horror" the images that pop into your head are probably famous faces associated with 80's slasher films: Freddy Krueger, Jason, Michael Myers, and Chucky the doll. There has been debate amongst movie goers that the golden age is far behind us and that today's horror films lack substance that made the genre so special in the first place. I am here to tell you that this is not the case.

While slasher films like *Nightmare on Elm Street*, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *Halloween*, and *Chucky* all have their place in pop-culture history, there is no denying that they had a deep impact on the horror genre for better and for worse. We saw trends like "the final girl", "Black guy is always first to die", as well as the famous "rules" that were brought to everyone's attention in the *Scream* franchise. For a while, horror movies had a formula that was considered sacred and as a result the genre became congested, predictable, and stale. Worse, the genre seemed to lose all sense of meaning and soul.

However, as a horror movie enthusiast, I am here to tell you that we are living in the golden era (or at least the silver era) of horror films that will match the likes of the 70's and 50's. There are a few reasons why I believe this. The first reason being that horror movies in recent years have been blending with other genres to do more than scare audiences. Films like *Get Out*, *IT Chapter 1/2*, *Us*, and *Ready or Not* effortlessly blend comedy with horror while films like *Hereditary*, *A Quiet Place*, *The VVitch*, and *The Babadook* operate more like family dramas than horror films. It is the decay of the family that is the horrific element more than the creature/supernatural antagonist that is haunting them.

In addition to blending genres, horror films

See **GOLDEN AGE** *page 10*

Five Reasons You Should Be Watching HBO's *Barry*

Michelle Sharpe

1. The plot is ridiculous: The series follows a depressed hitman named Barry who decides to leave his life of crime behind and pursue an acting career. Unfortunately, he becomes embroiled in the Chechen mob and has to dodge an LAPD investigation all while trying to pursue the life of his dreams.

2. It transcends genres: Barry is marketed as a comedy, but like other dark comedies that it has been compared to (*Fargo*, *Breaking Bad*, *Dexter*) it delivers fairly dark and dramatic moments. With each episode clocking in at half an hour, Barry does not just deliver laughs, it packs a punch. You can be laughing one minute and sitting at the edge of your seat the next before the screen cuts to black and you are stuck having to wait for the next episode to see how Barry gets out of a situation.

3. The acting!: *Barry* is created, directed by, and stars Bill Hader (more on him in a moment). As showrunner, he was responsible for casting the show and honestly, the cast is phenomenal. This year alone five of the actors have received Emmy nominations (Hader won for the second year in a row). The cast is comprised of veteran and up and coming actors. Stephen Root (*Office Space*) and Henry Winkler (*Happy Days*) provide some of the best performances of their career. Winkler even won his first Emmy after season 1. Root and Winkler both play father figures from different spectrums of Barry's life. Root plays Fuches, the man who is responsible for getting Barry into the hitman business and is the devil on Barry's shoulder that Barry just can't seem to get rid of. Winkler plays Gene Cousineau, Barry's acting coach, who provides Barry guidance both on and off the stage. He is the angel on Barry's shoulder that Barry wants to impress.

Sarah Goldberg and Anthony Carrigan are two relatively unknown actors who shine in *Barry*. Goldberg plays Sally, an aspiring actress that Barry falls in love with. She is self-centered, damaged, and sometimes insufferable yet relatable and vulnerable. Sally, like the rest of the characters, is flawed and that just makes her all the more compelling and Sarah Goldberg plays her perfectly.

Carrigan plays the very polite and optimistic Chechen mob boss NoHo Hank. He is easily the best part of Barry and that's saying a lot. Barry is already a fantastic show but Carrigan's performance manages to elevate it to perfection. He is funny and if you decide to watch Barry for no other reason, watch it for this guy.

4. The action: *Barry* might be a dark comedy about trying to pursue a better life, but the show offers some seriously crazy action sequences. The highest rated episode "ronny/lily" delivered a single shot fight scene that was both hilarious and oddly brutal. This episode aired the same weekend as the Battle of Winterfell in *Game of Thrones* as well as *Avengers Endgame*, and it managed to outshine both events. Don't believe me? Watch it.

Bill Hader: We are in the middle of a Bill Hader renaissance and *Barry* is at the very center of it. Hader created the show with showrunner Alec Berg and between the two of them, they have created something truly original and unique. Hader did not win the Emmy for outstanding lead actor two years in a row for nothing. He disappears into the role of Barry and it is a treat to watch him grow not only as an actor but as a filmmaker. The evolution of Hader's writing and directing style is palpable between seasons one and two and it will be interesting to see if he can keep the momentum going through season 3. Hader is truly a talented individual and *Barry* is a masterpiece that everyone should be watching.

Escape

By E. Farris

"I'm home, I brought you a gift. How was your day?" she called from the living room.

"My day was fine. I'm almost done with dinner." I called back.

"Bring me a cup of coffee."

"Okay."

I grabbed the coffee pot, my hand shaking, and started to pour. Suddenly my hand jolted toward my chest, scalding my arm with coffee. I released the coffee pot and it shattered on the floor. She stormed into the kitchen.

"WHAT WAS THAT?"

"I dropped the pot-"

I was holding my face from the glass littering the floor, shards of heated sand digging into my hands. My cheek smarted from the slap of her back hand.

"I'm sorry,"

Was all I could muster while holding back tears.

"Do you wanna cry!" she taunted, "My God, how pathetic, you don't deserve this."

She waved a small wrapped box in front of my face before throwing it into the waste-bin.

"Clean this up, then take out the trash."

As I walked the cold forest path to the dumpster, I could hear the wind laughing at me. The trees snarled and the ground sunk me further down the farther away from the house I stepped. When I returned, she was waiting.

"Time for bed." She said with a grin. She unlocked the basement door and led me down, per routine. I sat against the cold cement wall, per routine. She placed the icy iron collar on my neck and cuffs on my wrists, per routine. She walked upstairs and turned off the lights, leaving me in darkness. The door clicked as it closed and clicked as it-

The door didn't click signaling that it locked. I waited for the familiar final click, 5 minutes,

10 minutes, 25 minutes, 45 minutes, an hour. Nothing came. She had left the door unlocked.

This was it, this was my chance. Escape was possible, even if hope was a glimmer. My arms strained yanking on the chains. I wouldn't stop, I felt the chains weaken. Blood dripped to the floor, my arms ached, I heaved with all my might. My chains broke. I stammered up the stairs, bursting through the door. Through the darkness I pushed to the front entrance into the chilly night air. I bolted for the forest.

I pushed through the forest, branches attacking my bare skin, rocks stabbing my feet. I was gasping for air, a sharp pain in my side attempted to hinder my sprint.

I can't stop! This pain is-

"Nothing!" I cried out.

I broke from the tree line into the blinding sun. I guarded my face with my hands and closed my eyes. The wet ground beneath my feet moved between my toes. I opened my eyes to a field of green grass. An orange light rose from the horizon while a silver orb descended toward it. White puffs floated across a blue sky.

The chains of my oppressor still hung on my wrists and neck, tethered to my body, but these chains held me no longer. Nothing did.

GEEKS *continued from page 4*

of video games, or the level design from the Metroid series. He discusses how puzzles, enemies and exploration are crucial parts of dungeons.

Next, in his short series titled "Designing for Disability" Mark Brown talks about different ways to design your video game to be more accessible to players with disabilities. For example, when designing with colorblind in mind, try to avoid using color alone to differentiate between important game mechanics.

Game Maker's Toolkit is a great channel to learn about making video games. Whether or not you design video games, play them or both. Go check him out.

2 Shadiversity

Shadiversity is a Youtube channel that focuses on fantasy and medieval history.

In one of his series, Fantasy Re-Armed, he expresses his opinion on which historical weapons different types of fantasy races would wield based on that races' physical characteristics. Such as how Minotaurs should use large tower shields to be able to ram into enemies with their strength.

Another one of his series is Underappreciated Historical Weapons. In those videos he talks about unique weapons like the swordbreaker and he discusses weapons that you may never have heard of that actually existed. Like the sword staff.

Shadiversity is one of my favorites when it comes to fantasy and weapons. He's humorous and educational, go check him out.

1 Overly Sarcastic Productions

Overly Sarcastic Productions is a fantastic channel! They are funny and educational, especially for any of you who love history or classic literature and mythology.

The hosts of Overly Sarcastic Productions is Red and Blue.

Red handles the literature side of this channel. She summarizes various classic books such as the works of H.P. Lovecraft, Homer, and Shakespeare, just to name a few. She summarizes these works through her animated doodles. She also goes over smaller myths like the story of Icarus, Pandora and more. As well as talking about writing tropes you commonly find in literature. She is very funny and entertaining to watch and you'll certainly come out smarter than you were before.

Blue handles the history side of the channel. He summarizes historical events and civilizations of the world like ancient Egypt, the Roman Empire, all that good stuff. He often has his character sitting in a study while he talks about historical events over maps and pictures to help you visualize what he is talking about. I'm sure all you history majors will enjoy Blue. Go check them out.

Peace Corps *continued from page 2*

websites, and news stories. But DO NOT skip over the application process tips. You will need a firm understanding of what the Peace Corps is looking for in an applicant. I found that the number one thing that they want is someone flexible and adaptable. They also want someone with leadership abilities.

Now there are two options of applying. You can "Send Me Anywhere", which is a basic application where you have no say in where the organization sends you. If you are selected to serve, you will be sent where they need you most or where the Peace Corps thinks you will fit the best. The second option is to scour the current job openings and apply to only one of them (you can only have one open application at a time). You can narrow your search based on location or job field. I narrowed mine to working with the youth or teaching English. I then selected Albania as the country that I wanted to apply for. I was nervous doing this as there are some countries that are harder to get. European countries are one of the harder countries to get into because there are less volunteers there at any given time, so it tends to be more competitive. Spanish-speaking countries, tropical islands, and European countries are all highly competitive countries.

But don't let that discourage you from applying because there is an option in the application process that lets you say that you are open to other countries and specify on what climate you prefer. In my application, I stated that I am used to living near mountains. I have always lived in the mountains and have had cold winters and hot summers. I said that I did not mind the cold or heat, I just needed to be near mountains and rivers. I also stated that I did not want to be on an island or a desert climate as I've never lived near the ocean or in an arid environment.

Indicating that you've researched the climate of the country that you are applying for shows that you have thought long and hard about this decision and that you are already preparing to go.

Step Three: So you are in the middle of applying and you find out that there is a resume and a personal statement portion of the application process. This part took me the longest and it should probably take you a while, too. Why do you want to serve? What can you bring to the community? This is your time to talk yourself up and to provide the recruiters with proof that you have the characteristics that they are searching for. Do not be afraid to get sentimental on the personal statement. You will be spending two years away from home. Show them that you are passionate about this and that this is a great opportunity to step outside your comfort zone to help a community grow.

Step Four: There is a medical portion of the application process. This is the longest part of the entire pre-departure process. Be honest on this section but keep in mind that every condition you have ever had will require hours of paper work to fill out if you are given an invitation. Are you overweight? Do you have a pre-existing condition? You will need clearance for all of that! It can get expensive and trying. But this part of the process is designed to ensure that the applicant is serious about serving, can follow directions, and can meet a deadline. If you are given an invitation to serve DO NOT PROCRASTINATE THE PHYSICALS AND VACCINATIONS! Get that stuff done and turned in ASAP.

Step Five: You will need three recommendations from professors, managers, or people you've worked with. If you are selected for an interview, you will need to have these done within a week.

Step Six: It could take a few months, but if you are selected for an interview, you will need to schedule one on Skype. Keep in mind the time difference. I had mine at 4:30 in the morning. This interview is everything. They will be looking at your appearance and they will be wanting responses to show that you have leadership experience, have interacted with people from different cultures before, and can handle being away from home for two years. They e-mail you some questions beforehand and there are a lot of online sources for interview preparation. Look presentable and be early. Make sure that the internet is working. All that jazz.

I was told that I would hear back no later than September if I got the job but it might take a few months. I got an invitation to serve three weeks after the interview. Honestly, I don't remember my interview that well. I did not sleep for 24 hours before taking it, but I must have been good. I would not advise following my example. Get a good night's rest beforehand. Unless you are like me and stress a lot and tend to be less talkative when tired, then maybe it's for the best that you don't sleep. I was too tired to be nervous during the interview and I slowed down my speech because I was so tired. Again, do not follow my example. If you do, avoid coffee and energy drinks and have a Nutrigrain bar or a piece of toast. You do not want to be jittery. You want to be calm, collected, and well prepared.

Step Seven: If you receive an invitation you are given instructions and a time frame for completing legal, travel, and medical clearance. Do not procrastinate any of them. If all goes well, you will be cleared to go in no time at all and you will be counting the days before you have to say goodbye to your family and hello to the big world out there.

I hope this article was somewhat helpful. I am not an overachiever and I did not think that I would be accepted into the Peace Corps. I've had one teaching assistant job at a day-care, and a student ambassador job at the college. The rest of my jobs were retail or food industry. If I can get accepted into the Peace Corps, there is no reason why you can't either. Just believe in yourself and show the recruiters that they'd be lucky to have you.

If you are not interested in the Peace Corps, but you have a dream, I hope that my experience encourages you to chase that dream. The first step to success is getting the courage in taking that step. Ignore the doubts and go for it.

* * * * * * * *

Golden Age *continued from page 9*

have become a way for filmmakers to hold a mirror up to society. Horror films are once again being used allegorically rather than just as shock value. *Midsommer* was an elaborate/extreme film that explored the theme of grief as well as illustrating the death of a relationship. *IT* is more than just a movie that has a killer clown; it explores themes of childhood trauma, guilt, abuse, and even sexual identity. *It Follows*, while not my favorite horror movie, does a great job of exploring the dangers of STI's and unprotected sex. The monster of the film follows its victim with the intent of tearing the person apart unless the person transfers it over to another person through the act of sex.

The final reason why horror films have become more interesting in recent years is also due to who is starring in the films as well as who is responsible for creating the films. Jordan Peele became the first black screenwriter in history to win an academy award for best original screenplay. With films that explore concepts of race and marginalized groups, Peele offered the world some diversity in main characters. While there have been black characters in horror movies in the past (Candyman perhaps being the most famous), the term "token black character" did not appear for no reason. Actors like Daniel Kaluuya and Lupita Nyong'o are already serving as horror movie icons for this generation. Representation is important and hopefully Peele's success and casting will inspire more filmmakers to help make the horror genre a little less monochromatic and a little more inclusive.

Speaking of inclusive, there are more female horror directors than ever before in movie history. Films like *The Babadook*, *Raw* (a great coming of age cannibalism story), and *Bird Box,* took the world by storm. *The Babadook* was hailed as one of the greatest horror films of the century, the *Bird Box* inspired many online memes, and *Raw* was so disturbing it became an international sensation after paramedics had to be called in due to it making people faint at early screenings.

The horror genre is not just thriving on the big screen. Thanks to shows like *American Horror Story*, *The Haunting of Hill House*, *Supernatural*, and *Stranger Things*, it is clear that audiences have rediscovered their love of being scared and filmmakers have rediscovered that a horror story needs to have heart and soul in order to captivate and terrify audiences.

Run *continued from page 1*

center of the room was a table. Two large ceramic bowls sat on opposite sides of a notecard. The note read "Eat Some."

In the bowls were white rice balls. Simon took a rice ball and ate it.

A malicious laugh came from the blackest corner in the room. Then Simon's mouth tickled. He spits out the rice ball. Spiders crawled on the floor. The half-eaten rice ball in his hand burst into spiders. Simon shook them off. Spiders boiled from the ceramic bowls. Simon pushed over the table. Spiders burst from the walls. Simon ran through the back door. The black forest was lit only by moonlight. The beast was on him.

Celebrate *continued from page 1*

costumes, parties, and bonfires seem like innocent fun. In history trick or treating was a way to sedate spirits with food offerings. Failure to do so resulted in punishment. Costumes were a disguise to please beings in order to gain power. Bonfires were used to burn people and animals in order to predict the future with their ashes. If people aren't informed of this history there is a possibility it can repeat itself. The more I learned about Halloween, the more it went against my morality. When I looked into the history, I could not continue on with such traditions. I asked myself, "How could I continue celebrating something that was just sugar-coated as time went by?" If you are someone that celebrates Halloween, I hold no judgement. It's not my place. It'd be a lie if I said it was easy pulling away from Halloween. I have gone with friends to festivals, haunted houses, and trick-or-treating and I had fun. I had to put away my own pride and focus on other things that mattered. My spiritual life was being threatened and continues to be every time the holiday rolls around. I'm tempted to have fun with friends but there are so many other alternatives. I don't have to use Halloween as an excuse to be with them. If you are like me and don't celebrate Halloween think of this as a message of encouragement. You are not alone and it's not unnatural if you don't celebrate it. I end this message with a prayer of safety for those going out and hope for everyone to have an Outstanding October!

My Summer Vacation

Story and photos by Miles Gibson

With such a short season many of us try to fit in as much as possible. I am no different. Usually by the last week of school the wanderlust has already taken me and I find myself daydreaming of camping destinations and upcoming concerts and festivals, while I should be buckling down for finals. With a state roughly the 1/3 the size of the continental United States there is no shortage of space to roam. Alaska has four interstate highways and I planned to hit them all.

My first trip of the season started almost immediately, with an offer to my band to headline a Saturday night at a first-time music festival. The First Annual Twin Bears Music and Arts festival was held 20 miles north of Fairbanks, at Twin Bears Camp. It offered two stages: one dedicated to EDM music (the Bass Room) and the Main Stage which offered acts ranging from folk to heavy metal to fire dancing and spoken word. There was no shortage of local Alaskan talent. Usually the Twin Bears Camp is a summer camp for children, so for a little extra you could stay in a classic bunkhouse on the lake. It reminded me of the setting of a classic 80s slasher flick. Having the 3-day festival at Twin Bear made it feel like summer camp with no supervision.

The Avery Wolves doin' it well.

Summer Solstice is a celebration for most Alaskans as we get to experience the midnight sun we are famous for. The town of Fairbanks has one of the largest Solstice celebrations in the state. As my girlfriend had never been up north, we decided to go. We went up for the weekend and decided to find an out-of-the-way place to camp. We found a campground about 17 miles north of Fairbanks called Olnes Pond. It was quite a way off the beaten path, but surprisingly well maintained. The lake was stocked, and shallow enough to be lukewarm and was perfect for swimming. But it was 90-plus degrees that day and we would have swam in nearly anything to cool off. It also had walking trails, a gazebo with grills, outhouses and access to the Chatanika river.

The Forest Fair has no shortage of artistic expression

The Fourth of July has no lack of activities in Alaska, whether it be the car launch in Sutton, or the Mount Marathon race in Seward. This is one of the most packed weekends of the summer. I decided to head south to Girdwood for the 44th Forest Fair. This is part festival, part street fair, and part art show. It takes place at the base of the mountains in the city of Girdwood. The oldest festival in Alaska has music going on at all of the wonderful restaurants, as well as in the fairground's beer garden. There is camping near the fairground for a fee, but no actual cover for the fair. Rather, the organizers ask that you buy a t-shirt, which they call "the cover that covers your back." There are plenty of amenities, including showers, ice, and hotels for those not wishing to camp. Some of the highlights musically were the Avery Wolves, a classic 3-piece rockabilly band that really captured the excitement of the festival.

Unless you stayed inside with an air-filter on full blast all summer you probably noticed some of the smoke from the record amount of forest fires. While the smoke made it difficult for some to enjoy the summer, I found that the recent Willow fire and the subsequent highway closure forced me to take the road less traveled, literally. After being stuck up in Fairbanks and not wanting to be in the way of the first responders trying to battle the blaze, I decided to take the Alaskan Highway across the state from Healy to Glenallen. This trip is amazing, taking you up and through the mountains in a way not many people get to see. It is not a trip for the faint of heart (I recommended some Fix-a-Flat and a good spare). This "highway" is mostly unpaved for over a hundred miles and rises from the base of the mountains and beginnings of the Chulitna river to the high point of Maclaren Summit at over 4,000 feet above sea level. It is also not uncommon to see grizzly bears or caribou herds along the drive. Don't expect to go much faster than 20 mph in many places.

Labor Day is traditionally the last hurrah for the summer, and it was no different for me. School had just started, and the leaves were definitely changing, but I wanted to get out one more time before I, like most, migrate inside for the winter. I wanted to do something by the coast and couldn't decide on Seward on Resurrection Bay, or Homer in Kachemak Bay. What ended up being the deciding factor was an article I found on a 'Haunted Alaska' website. It said Seward has a haunted hotel downtown. The Van Gilder house in Seward is over a hundred years old, and reportedly home to a ghostly female who died under suspicious circumstances. The front desk help assured us that the place wasn't haunted, but I soon caught the attention of a couple from California that travel the states to document paranormal activities and places. They had rented the haunted room (211 if you're wondering) and had both cameras and EMF readers. So, they at least were taking it pretty seriously. I cannot say one way or another if it is haunted, but I did feel uneasy and got a couple hits on a ghost radar app I downloaded for my stay. What can I say – I want to believe.

STUDENT READERS' CONTEST

The *Mat-Su Monitor* asked our readers what they did this summer. Here are some of the responses.

- Traveled Alaska camping along the way.
- Mostly visiting with family and hanging out at the local swimming hole.
- I spent the summer working with a non-profit organization as a camp counselor/mentor in a week long camp for foster kids aged 6-12 and in a 3 day weekend camp for female foster teens aged 13-16.
- This past summer I spent most of my time in the mountains. Most days I would wake up, roll out of bed, and load up my car with my 3 year old and my dog. I typically pack my son on my back when he gets tired and we go for miles. Being surrounded by nature is my way to decompress and revive my soul.
- I dug a 4' trench around half my house so that we could fix the terrible insulation that only covers half way down to the frost line.
- This past summer the Colony Marching Band and I went to Normandy France to perform and celebrate the 75th anniversary of D-day. We marched in a parade at one of the first major paratrooper landing points during the operation, performed classic patriotic pieces at multiple memorials and a cemetery, and received a tour of Paris. It was an amazing learning experience and a time I'll never forget!
- I took the train to Seward for a wildlife cruise.

Congratulations to entrant **Star Kahn** who was randomly selected to win a 20 dollar gift certificate!

Keep your eyes open for the *Monitor's* next reader submission contest!

9 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

PROTECTS ALL PEOPLE OF SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION REGARDLESS OF SEX

ALL SCHOOLS MUST HAVE A TITLE IX COORDINATOR

SCHOOLS MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR VICTIMS

SCHOOLS MUST HAVE APPROVED PROCEDURES TO HANDLE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

SCHOOLS MAY NOT RETALIATE AGAINST A VICTIM FILING A COMPLAINT

PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS ARE PROTECTED FROM DISCRIMINATION

SCHOOLS CANNOT DISCOURAGE SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS FROM PURSUING EDUCATION

SCHOOLS MUST ENSURE CAMPUS IS FREE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION

ALL SEXUAL INTERACTIONS MUST OCCUR BETWEEN TWO CONSENTING ADULTS

TITLE IX

If you SEE Something, SAY Something, DO Something